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battleships. He says we have entered each one of these wars unprepared. Did we not come out from each of them triumphantly? [Applause.] Yes, with honor; even with glory; and if we succeeded so well when we were unprepared, is it not certain that we would in the future succeed with that high degree of preparation which belongs to both the army and navy? He states that our war for Cuba was one of sentiment. I cannot agree with him in that. There was primarily trouble in that fertile island near at hand in which we had large commercial and other interests. Conditions there had become intolerable for us. Again, we could not sit idly by and see that island under the yoke of oppression and plunder, when we profess to the world that we are in the very vanguard of popular government and of the idea that the people must rule without oppression.

He states that any nation which attacks us must know their own peril in their assault. There is and always has been peril in assaulting the United States [applause], and that peril would be infinitely greater to-day than in any decade of our history; a peril due not only to a strong navy and a strong army, but to our unparalleled resources. Perhaps, I may say, a peril due more than all to the consideration of the future, to the conviction of statesmen that no one could idly or upon trifling occasion attack the United States, because it would mean a future which, if not of retaliation, would at least be of such diminished friendship and intercourse as to redound to the lasting injury of whatever country might attack us.

Oh, but it is said, we must have a navy so that our contentions will be acquiesced in. What great contention in diplomacy which has made for the greatness of the American name was accomplished by a great navy? [Applause.] The Monroe doctrine was initiated and established and became a part of the settled policy of nations without the drawing of a sword or firing of a shot. It was initiated at a time when we were a weak, remote people, away from the great powerful nations of the earth. The open door in China has been mentioned. What made our influence potent for securing that open door? Not the strength of our navy. If that were true, Great Britain and France and other powers, which have maintained powerful fleets in that locality for many years, would have secured it long ago. What did secure the open door? The confidence of the people of the great Flowery Kingdom in the justice and good intentions of the American people [applause], an influence which would have been diminished had we gone there with our battleships and demanded anything of the kind.

In the brief time of this debate I cannot go over ground which I have so frequently gone over before in this House; but I do wish to say that every nation, like an individual, has a work to do, a mission to perform. And no nobler mission could fall to the United States than to take a stand for peace. If we strike out this provision for the two battleships, it will mean that we are at peace with all the world to-day and that we intend to be at peace with all the world in the future as well. [Applause.] It will mean to the struggling millions suffering from the tragedy of poverty or the pinching of want, to all those who desire enlarged opportunities and more of the comforts and conveniences of life, that we are aiding to lift the crushing weight of military expenses and duties from them. It will mean, even from

the standpoint of enlargement of trade, that our prosperity will increase because their purchasing power will be increased. This problem is sure to be settled in the long run as an economic one. The nations of the earth cannot go on in this mad rush for naval expansion. The burden, if not intolerable, will be intolerable in a very few years. Let us take the lead.

There were many notable events in that wondrous year of 1908, but that which will be longest recorded in history will be the appalling calamity in Italy. That will be remembered when many trivial and minor events shall have been forgotten in the dusty records of time. The most notable act, also, of this Congress will be the voting of \$800,000 for the relief of suffering Italy. That measure passed here almost in silence, without a sound in opposition, and not a voice was needed in its support. The President had recommended it and the sentiment of the American people demanded it. Our regard for humanity knew no distinction between republic and monarchy, no division by seas, but sent forth the declaration that bleeding, dying, suffering humanity awakened the sympathy and the affection of the American people. And so from our wealth, notwithstanding there might be constitutional questions, we gave from our abundance for the alleviation of the suffering of those people. Along that line, in measures which promote goodwill, which add to peace, which show that we are a part of the brotherhood of the nations and that humanity is one great whole, is our glory, and it will be not merely our glory, but our very strength as a people. It will be remembered as an act of goodwill when naval bills making provision for battleships are regarded as a reminiscence of the past and as due to useless rivalries and jealousies of nations, and when, in the larger view of humanity, in the great march of civilization, peace and goodwill prevail over all the earth. [Applause.]

The Peace Society of the City of New York.

The Great Dinner Given Elihu Root, February 26.

BY REV. FREDERICK LYNCH.

Some might say that the great dinner given Mr. Elihu Root by the Peace Society of the City of New York, Friday night, February 26, was a welcome to Senator Root rather than a farewell to Secretary Root, that most of the addresses began with Hail, Mr. Senator, rather than Ave, Mr. Secretary. Yet, while all of the speakers could not help felicitating New York and the nation on the acquiring of such a man for the Senate of the United States, the dinner was given by the great group of men who believe in and trust the new forces of unity and brotherhood working in the world, as a recognition of Secretary Root's incomparable services as world peace-maker. What other officer in all the world's governments has, or ever has had, a record of twenty-three arbitration treaties concluded with other nations of the earth?

The dinner itself will probably be recorded as the most significant dinner ever given in New York. Not only were there six hundred guests, but these guests were the men who are saying the prophetic words and doing the big and new things. Beside the speakers, Hon. Joseph H. Choate, Hon. James Bryce, Governor Charles

E. Hughes, His Excellency Baron Takahira, Ambassador from Japan, His Excellency Joaquin Nabuco, Ambassador from Brazil and President Taft, there were present scores of such men as Seth Low, Judge Alton B. Parker, Hamilton Holt, Nicholas M. Butler, R. Fulton Cutting, Oswald Villard, Hon. Thomas Young, M. M. Marks, Charles Sprague Smith, Edwin D. Mead, S. T. Dutton, General Horace Porter, Hart Lyman, James B. Scott, Charles E. Jefferson, Joseph N. Hallock, Robert Treat Paine, Benjamin F. Trueblood, Robert E. Ely, John S. Barrett, James L. Tryon, W. H. Short, George H. Putnam, Colonel George Harvey, Henry Clews, Samuel J. Barrows, Walter Damrosch, — and one might go on and fill the page with names. I have merely recorded the names of those eminent peace-workers who sat near me around the guest tables. Many others were there of equal prominence, but the striking thing was, — as Senator Root himself could not help observing, when he remarked that it seemed as though all his old friends had invaded the Peace Society, — to notice the change that has come over the personnel of peace societies. Forty years ago had a peace society given a dinner to, let us say, Frederic Passy, there would have been fifty or sixty guests made up almost solely of the little cult of professional peace-workers, those prophetic few with vision, who saw what was coming while the so-called practical people laughed; those earnest humanitarians who dared believe and live Christianity, while the rest of the world still lingered in the fields of pagan ethics. How glad that little prophetic group must have felt at this dinner to see that the big lawyers, statesmen, financiers, college professors, editors, clergymen, were now on their side, had caught up with them and were as earnest as they. The peace movement has become a great, popular world impulse, and will soon come to great consummation. Of the six hundred guests present, so many were young men, too.

If the dinner had been given forty years ago it would not have been given to a man holding the second highest office any nation offers — holding any governmental office, for that matter. Great statesmen were not the peacemakers then. The poets and preachers and philanthropists, the Whittiers and Hales and Truebloods and Smileys, were doing it all. But see the great change as evidenced at this dinner. Not only the poets and preachers and philanthropists, but lo, the great statesmen are numbered with the prophets — and in the van, too, with the swiftest of us. Choate, Root, Takahira, Hughes, Nabuco, the President himself, all vying with one another in peace talk. Governor Hughes, Mr. Oscar F. Straus, John Bassett Moore, statesmen of highest type and positions, are officers of the Peace Society. The great peace-workers of Europe are in the cabinets and parliaments of the world. The Interparliamentary Union has nearly three thousand members now. I could not help thinking of these things as I sat there listening to the second highest official of the United States making a peace speech equal in fervor and prophetic vision to anything one could have heard from David Dodge had he been living to have seen these great things.

Senator Root's remarkable address, printed in this issue, is fast going around the world. It will do great good in Japan, and there was immense applause when fearlessly and emphatically he rebuked those who persistently continue to insult that friendly people. It will

be another link in the golden chain binding North and South America together, for no one could say more beautiful words of South America than did Senator Root in referring to his remarkable reception in that land upon his great journey thither. I would call attention to the fact that the one great principle underlying all of Mr. Root's address is this: "There should be the same standard of ethics for nations in their relations to each other that prevails among individuals." When nations regard and treat each other as one gentleman regards and treats another, wars will end. For wars grow out of the temper and spirit of a nation, rather than from any real evil, as Mr. Root contends.

Only Senator Root's speech is printed in this paper, because of its permanent value as a contribution to the peace literature of the world. The other addresses have been printed, however, in all the great dailies of the land, and were of great distinction and value. But better even than the speeches was the general tone and spirit of the speakers. All the speakers were great peacemakers, have given their life to that work, and therefore spoke feelingly and not perfunctorily, as those who must play a part for an evening. What a peacemaker President Taft has been. Everywhere he has gone, to China, to the Philippines, to the Vatican, to Cuba, to Panama, he has poured oil on troubled waters. He has more than once remarked that as Secretary of War he considered his office that of Secretary of Peace. His speech at the dinner was to felicitate the United States that it had in its high offices such men as Elihu Root, the great peacemaker.

Governor Hughes is a vice-president of the Peace Society of the City of New York, and thousands of people will long remember his great address at the Peace Congress in Carnegie Hall, two years ago, when he pleaded for the new civilization. His speech at the dinner was in this same spirit. It was a plea for peace, that nations be not interrupted in or diverted from the natural fulfillment of that growing civilization that marks great nations to-day. Especially did the United States desire friendly relations with all lands, that it might fulfill its own destiny.

I cannot further report the addresses made by their Excellencies Ambassadors Bryce of Great Britain, Takahira of Japan and Nabuco of Brazil. Sufficient to say that they were asked to the dinner because, among high government officials, they have been closest to Mr. Root in his great work for peace. It was with Baron Takahira that Mr. Root made the great compact signed by the United States and Japan. It was Señor Nabuco who arranged Mr. Root's journey to South America, and who has been foremost in the development of the Pan-American conferences and treaties and bureau. It was he who at the dinner stirred the guests to cheers by remarking: "If to-day the place of permanent arbitrator for the nations was created, I believe he would be their first choice. Indeed, he stands as the foremost representative of the cause of peace in the world. That he owes to his impartiality, his serenity, his good judgment, and his broad sympathy with mankind, without ever having had to disguise his strong Americanism, in the sense of loyalty to the whole American continent."

The British naval estimates for year 1909-1910 amount to \$175,000,000, \$15,000,000 more than the past year.